

## SPECIAL REVIEW

*The Don Quixote of Psychiatry.* V. ROBINSON. New York: Historico-Medical Press, 1919. Pp. 339. \$2.00.

In all lines of endeavor there are men of high ideals, broad vision, and great energy, who fail of success because of the lack of that characteristic called common sense. Because of their defect their science, or business, or profession, loses in two ways. The individual is unable to accomplish even a small part of what he attempts and is capable of, and many others engaged in the same kind of work are, without trial and to the detriment of their work, misjudged to be equally impractical, tactless, and visionary.

The only excuse for reviewing, and recommending, this book in a psychological journal is that it is a study in individual psychology, of a type of man not infrequently encountered in the past. The life it portrays is an example of the inefficiency of brilliancy plus versatility. As neurologist and psychiatrist Clevenger published papers of value in those fields, but he also invented a book-typewriter and a shoe-polishing machine. The book recounts events in Clevenger's life, showing him to be a man who had as correspondents and friends the leading scientific men of his day, and who had opportunities placed in his way, but who, because of intense feelings and what we may euphemistically call an unpromising scientific attitude, failed to make those adjustments necessary to success. The biographer rightly remarks that "Clevenger could have collaborated with Whistler in writing *The Gentle Art of Making Enemies*."

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